Appendix H: Guide for Lead Entity Project Evaluation

Benefit and Certainty Criteria

The SRFB developed the following criteria several years ago for evaluating benefit to fish and certainty of project success. With the evolution of lead entity strategies and recovery plans, the SRFB shifted to a technical evaluation of site-specific projects using the Project of Concern (POC) criteria. The benefit and certainty criteria listed below are to be used only for lead entity guidance in their evaluation of projects through their local process.

Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy	High BENEFIT Project
Watershed Processes and Habitat Features	Addresses high priority habitat features and/or watershed process that significantly protect or limit the salmonid productivity in the area. **Acquisition:** More than 60 percent of the total project area is intact habitat, or if less than 60 percent, project must be a combination that includes restoration. **Assessment:** Crucial to understanding watershed processes, is directly relevant to project development or sequencing, and will clearly lead to new projects in high priority areas.
Areas and Actions	Is a high priority action in a high priority geographic area. Assessment: Fills an important data gap in a high priority area.
Scientific	Is identified through a documented habitat assessment.

Species	Addresses multiple species or unique populations of salmonids essential for recovery or Endangered Species Act-listed fish species or non-listed populations primarily supported by natural spawning. Fish use has been documented.
Life History	Addresses an important life history stage or habitat type that limits the productivity of the salmonid species in the area or project addresses multiple life history requirements.
Costs	Has a low cost relative to the predicted benefits for the project type in that location.
Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy	**Medium BENEFIT Project**
Watershed Processes and Habitat Features	May not address the most important limiting factor but will improve habitat conditions. Acquisition: 40-60 percent of the total project area is intact habitat, or if less than 40-60 percent, project must be a combination that includes restoration. Assessments: Will lead to new projects in moderate priority areas and is independent of other key conditions being addressed first.
Areas and Actions	May be an important action but in a moderate priority geographic area. Assessment: Fills an important data gap, but is in a moderate priority area.
Scientific	Is identified through a documented habitat assessment or scientific opinion.
Species	Addresses a moderate number of species or unique populations of salmonids essential for recovery or Endangered Species Act-listed fish species or non-listed populations primarily supported by natural spawning. Fish use has been documented.
Life History	Addresses fewer life history stages or habitat types that limit the productivity of the salmonid species in the area or partially addresses fewer life history requirements.
Costs	Has a reasonable cost relative to the predicted benefits for the project type in that location.
Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy	**Low BENEFIT Project**
Watershed Processes and Habitat Features	Has not been proven to address an important habitat condition in the area.

Areas and Actions	Addresses a lower priority action or geographic area.
Scientific	Is unclear or lacks scientific information about the problem being addressed.
Species	Addresses a single species of a low priority. Fish use may not have been documented.
Life History	Is unclear about the salmonid life history being addressed.
Costs	Has a high cost relative to the predicted benefits for that particular project type in that location.
Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy	**High CERTAINTY Project**
Appropriate	Scope is appropriate to meet its goals and objectives.
Approach	Is consistent with proven scientific methods. Assessment: Methodology will effectively address an information/data gap or lead to effective implementation of prioritized projects within one to two years of completion.
Sequence	Is in the correct sequence and is independent of other actions being taken first.
Threat	Addresses a high potential threat to salmonid habitat.
Stewardship	Clearly describes and funds stewardship of the area or facility for more than 10 years.
Landowner	Landowners are willing to have work done.
Implementation	Actions are scheduled, funded, and ready to take place and have few or no known constraints to successful implementation as well as other projects that may result from this project.
Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy	**Medium CERTAINTY Project**
Appropriate	Is moderately appropriate to meet its goals and objectives.
Approach	Uses scientific methods that may have been tested but the results are incomplete. Assessment: Methods will effectively address a data gap or lead to effective implementation of prioritized projects within three to five years of completion.
Sequence	Is dependent on other actions being taken first that are outside the scope of this project.

Threat	Addresses a moderate potential threat to salmonid habitat.
Stewardship	Clearly describes but does not fund stewardship of the area or facility for more than 10 years.
Landowner	Landowners may have been contacted and likely will allow work to be done.
Implementation	Have few or no known constraints to successful implementation as well as other projects that may result from this project.
Identified and Prioritized in the Strategy	**Low CERTAINTY Project**
Appropriate	The methodology does not appear to meet the goals and objectives of the project.
Approach	Uses methods that have not been tested or proven to be effective in the past.
Sequence	May be in the wrong sequence with other protection and restoration actions.
Threat	Addresses a low potential threat to salmonid habitat.
Stewardship	Does not describe or fund stewardship of the area or facility.
Landowner	Landowner willingness is unknown.
Implementation	Actions are unscheduled, unfunded, and not ready to take place, and have several constraints to successful implementation.